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Mrs. Joy Derr
Hood College
401 Rosemont Ave.,
Frederick, MD 21701

8/6/95

Dear Joy,

For when you return.

When Martha and others were here some years ago to make a sort-of official inspection of what we are giving Hood our conversations wandered a bit. At one point Martha exclaims^{ed} in close to these words, we have to do oral histories with this man. But she never gave anyone time for them.

That was at a time when my limited ~~access~~ access to all those records in our basement limited what I was able to write. Having free time I was then reminiscing with friends of my youth, in letters of which I kept ~~no~~ copies. When I could not refer back to one of those letters that friend chided me for not keeping copies. So I started doing that. And then I recalled what Martha had said so I started a separate file of them on the chance that some of them could substitute for those other oral histories never made.

In 1992 I found a formula for continuing my writing without access to all those basement records. Now it is too dangerous for either of us to go there and we never do. Using that formula I've quite a bit on paper for the record for history. My current NEVER AGAIN! was actually written in 1992. Case Open appeared last year. I finished the sequel to NEVER AGAIN! last year and I've almost finished two other manuscripts this year.

I'll ~~now~~ be as busy and is possible for me and I'll have little or no time for any more reminiscing. Lil and I have now accumulated 165 years between us and there is more writing I'd like to do.

So, if there is any interest in those reminiscences I'd like to get the use of the space they are taking up. I can put a file box in that space and with my office files jammed I've been having to use boxes atop the file cabinets for filing manuscripts and new records I'm getting from time to time.

So, I'd like to give that accumulation to Hood. It can decide whether it wants to keep them. I accumulated them for no other purpose. I don't think they may hold what students and perhaps others might otherwise not know about and, bad as my ~~typing~~ typing is, they are all typed, except for corrections.

Hope you have a fine vacation!

Handp